



ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

OF THE

STAFFORD RURAL DISTRICT,

For the Year 1921.



STAFFORD :

PRINTED BY R. W. HOURD, 22, MILL STREET.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30131200>

REPORT.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Stafford Rural
District Council.*

EAST GATE,

STAFFORD,

APRIL, 1922.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the health of the Stafford Rural District for the Year 1921.

Population.

The population as estimated by the Registrar-General, based on the Census of 1921, is 11,070. This number, however, included 2116 troops, then quartered at Brocton, and since removed. Therefore, for the purpose of this Report, the population is estimated as under :

For Birth and Death Rate, 8,954.

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS.—There were 170 births registered in the District during 1921. This is equal to a rate of 19 per 1000 of the population. The number is made up as follows :—

	Males.	Females.
Legitimate	70	88
Illegitimate	7	5
	<hr/> 77	<hr/> 93

The rate for 1920 was 24 per 1000 of the population.

DEATHS.—The number of deaths registered as having occurred in the District during the year was 109, which gives a rate of 12·1 per 1000 of the population, the rates for 1919 and 1920 being 16·7 and 11·2 respectively.

Appended is a table showing the causes of death, classified according to diseases, but no ages being shown.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males.	Females.
Diphtheria	1	1
Influenza ... ..	...	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	...	2
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	3	10
Diabetes	1	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	4	5
Heart Disease	4	7
Arteric-Sclerosis	1	3
Bronchitis	1	1
Pneumonia	2	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	...
Ulcer of Stomach... ..	2	...
Diarrhœa ... ..	...	1
Appendicitis and Typhilitis	...	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	...
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	...
Diseases of Pregnancy ... ..	...	1
Congenital Debility	2	3
Suicide	1	2
Other Deaths from Violence	3	1
Other defined Diseases ...	19	13
Causes ill-defined or unknown	1	...
	<hr/> 50 <hr/>	<hr/> 59 <hr/>

Infantile Mortality.

The number of deaths of children under one year of age was 10, which is equal to a rate of 59 per 1000 births registered. The rates for the four previous years are given :—

1917...81 per 1000 births registered.
 1918...63 per 1000 births registered.
 1919...59 per 1000 births registered.
 1920...75 per 1000 births registered.

Physical Features.

The district is practically all agricultural, but much of the land is of a low-lying character. The chief occupations of the inhabitants are connected with the land, but a few of the residents immediately outside the Borough of Stafford obtain employment from the Engineering and Shoe manufacturing industries and from the Salt Works in the town.

Social Conditions.

No evidence exists of the effects of any local industry upon the health of the residents.

Poor-law relief is granted to necessitous cases, but the demand for this is not large. Gratuitous medical relief is given to all suitable cases by the Staffordshire General Infirmary.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER SUPPLY.—The parishes of Berkswich, Brocton, and part of Tixall, are supplied with tap water from the Stafford Corporation Water Works, which is of excellent quality, and the parishes of Ingestre, Hopton, and part of Colwich, by private pumping works and gravitation. The other parts of the district depend on wells and hydraulic rams.

The water from any doubtful well is analysed, the result determining any action taken regarding such well.

During the year 27 samples of water were analysed, and of these six were found to be unfit for drinking purposes.

Six complaints of defective pumps were remedied on request.

During the exceptionally dry summer, the wells at Hyde Lea, which has an altitude of 420 feet above ordnance datum, became dry, and arrangements were made with the Stafford Corporation to cart tap water some three or four days a week to the thirty houses, and school.

POLLUTIONS OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The river Trent receives considerable pollution as it flows through the Potteries before entering the district. With this exception the rivers and streams in the district receive no serious pollution.

DRAINING AND SEWERAGE.—The district being purely agricultural, and consisting mainly of isolated houses, the sewerage is mostly dealt with by individual land irrigation.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—Approximately there are 627 water closets, 1000 pan closets, and 265 privy middens within the district.

SCAVENGING.—The scattered nature of the houses has not called for any system of scavenging, but suitable tips are provided in several of the parishes.

Sanitary Inspection of District.

COW-SHEDS AND DAIRIES.—There are 312 registered dairy premises, and 661 cow-sheds in the District, also a number of small holdings where butter or cheese only are made. An inspection of these is carried out regularly, and during the year orders were enforced with respect to the following :—

Window Lighting	...	Six Cases.
Drainage	...	Nine Cases.
Repairs	...	Nineteen Cases.
Cleansing	...	Fifty-two Cases.

During the year 200 inspections were made, revealing the following:—

- 40 Drainage Defects.
- 10 Houses requiring cleansing.
- 8 Yards requiring cleansing.
- 42 Houses requiring repairs, including repairs to roofs and spouting.
- 1 Case of over-crowding.

Disinfection after infectious disease has been carried out thoroughly in all cases, including malignant and tuberculous diseases.

Sixty preliminary and two statutory notices were served.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE LAWS OR REGULATIONS.—There are none which can be so controlled.

SCHOOLS.—The sanitary conditions of all the schools in the District are considered satisfactory. The head teacher in a school notifies the occurrence of any infectious disease arising therein. Instructions are given, and the schools are closed for suitable periods when the necessity arises.

SCHOOL MEDICAL INSPECTION.—This is undertaken by Medical Officers appointed by and under the control of the Staffordshire County Council.

Food.

MILK —The milk supply of the District is good as regards quality and freshness, but there is still much to be desired in the way of cleanliness in the surroundings associated with milking.

The sampling and analysis of milk under the Food and Drugs Act is undertaken by the County Council.

Other Foods.

BAKEHOUSES, of which there are only three in the District, are visited and inspected, and are in a good condition.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.—There are five slaughterhouses in use in the District. Owing to certain conditions prevailing the Council now propose to adopt bye-laws controlling the erection and maintenance of slaughterhouses.

There is no public abattoir in the District.

The small general shops are inspected periodically, and the tinned and other goods reviewed.

Adoptive Acts in Force in the District.

- 1.—Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, 1885.
- 2.—Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, 1889.
- 3.—Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.
- 4.—Public Health Amendment Act, 1890 (Part 3).
- 5.—Notification of Births Act.

Under this Act 131 Births were notified to me during 1921, the actual number registered in the district being 170.

Prevalence of and Control Over Acute Infectious Diseases.

The number of cases of infectious disease occurring during 1921 is shown in the following table, the number for the previous four years also being given :—

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Puerperal Fever	E'demic Cere- bro Spinal Meningitis	Erysipelas	Measles	Pneumonia	Acute Poliomyelitis
1917	52	64	1	6	...	...	2	7	104	...	...
1918	5	26	...	4	...	1	...	...	80	...	...
1919	14	23	1	7	2	2	...	2	28	7	...
1920	7	6	...	5	1	1	...	...	36	2	...
1921	8	12	3	2	...	...	...	1	5	1	1

Nineteen cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Eight of the twelve cases of Diphtheria occurred in one parish at the latter end of the year, and the schools were closed.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

No case has occurred during the year.

Isolation Hospital.

The arrangement with the Stafford Corporation by which all cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Enteric in the Rural District should be treated in the Borough Isolation Hospital has been in force since April, 1912. The Corporation enlarged their accommodation sufficiently to provide for all such cases, and the arrangement works satisfactorily. The Borough Authorities, who undertake to remove the cases to the Isolation Hospital, have now a properly equipped Motor Ambulance.

Anthrax.

During the year three cases of Anthrax were reported.

One case of Anthrax also occurred in a human being. The man was promptly removed to the Staffordshire General Infirmary, where he made a satisfactory recovery

Maternity and Child Welfare.

A table is appended showing the work of the Health Visitors during 1921, as reported to me monthly by the various Health Visitors themselves.

There is only one Welfare Centre in the District, viz., in the parish of Colwich.

MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN ORDER, 1919). This Order was rescinded in April, 1921, by the Order of the Ministry of Health.

Housing.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—The conditions generally are fair. A few statistics are appended:—

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme	...						14

1.—*Unfit dwelling houses.*

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	200
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910				25
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...		1
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...			140

2.—*Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	62
---	-----	----

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	60
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—					
(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	60
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	—

General Statistics.

Area (acres)	54,465
Population (1921)	8,954
Number of inhabited houses (1921), approximately	1,896
Rateable Value	£91,530
Sum represented by a penny rate	£381

Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health (part time).

Sanitary Inspector (whole time).

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE. — There are six Health Visitors appointed by the County Council.

HERBERT MARSON,
M.D., B.S., Durh. L.R.C.P. Lond., F.R.C.S. Eng.,
Medical Officer of Health.

JAMES W. COOK, A.R.S.I.,
Sanitary Inspector.

Maternity and Infant Welfare.

Particulars relating to the work during the Year 1921.

Health Visitors, Six.

Stafford Rural District.

Births																		First Visits			Revisits			Total Visits		
Registered		Notified						Transfers from other Districts during the Month																		
		Full term		Premature		Stillborn		By Midwives		By Parents and Doctors		Under ten days		Over ten days and under one year		One year and under five		Expectant Mothers	Children		Expectant Mothers	Children		Expectant Mothers	Children	
L	I	L	I	L	I	L	I	L	I	L	I	L	I	L	I	L	I		Under 1 year	B'tween 1 & 5 years		Under 1 year	B'tween 1 & 5 years		Under 1 year	B'tween 1 & 5 years
41	10	4	0	0	0	3	1	54	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	83	87	18	141	595	777	224	682	795

Children on Visiting List at end of Month		Deaths and Removals of Children on Visiting List during the Month												Welfare Centre (One Only in District)							No. of cases of insanitary conditions rep rted to Medical Officer of Health
Under One Year	One Year and under five	Under ten days				Over ten days and under one year				One year and under five				No. on Books			Total No. of Attendances				
		Deaths		Removals		Deaths		Removals		Deaths		Removals		Expectant Mothers	Children		Expectant Mothers	Children		Health Visitor	
		L	I	L	I	L	I	L	I	L	I	L	I		Under 1 year	B'tween 1 & 5 years		Under 1 year	B'tween 1 & 5 years		
746	1375	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	2	2	54	123	16	47	133	34	1	0

L.—Legitimate.

I.—Illegitimate.

